was placed on the Table of the House on the 31st March, 1992. The salient features are:—

1. Trade has been made free except for Negative List of Imports and Negative List of Exports.
2. Regulation and control has been largely removed.
3. Thrust to export promotion.
4. Encouragement to manufacturer exporters to attain internationally accepted standards of quality for their products.

(b) and (c) All the required Notifications or Public Notices for the implementation of the EXIM Policy have been issued by the Commerce Ministry except for the following:—

(i) Special import licences for grant of incentives to certain categories of exporters.

(ii) Self-declared Pass Book Scheme for certain categories of exporters.

Proposals to set up Independent Authority for Auditing Nationalised Banks

*387. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an Independent authority to audit and monitor the operations of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what exactly will be the powers and functions of the new audit authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up an Independent authority for audit of nationalised banks. However, in the light of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee, it is proposed to set up, under the aegis of Reserve Bank of India, an independent agency for the supervision and control of the financial system, including the banking sector.

Tourism task force cell in ITDC

*388. Z. A. AHMAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3328 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March, 1992 and State:

(a) when the promotion of tourism is the sole responsibility of State Governments as per Central Government, then how far the investment/action for identifying and developing new areas of tourism potential in the country through ITDC Task Force Cell is justified and desirable; and

(b) what has been the quantum of amount allocated by the Union Government to be spent through the ITDC Tourism Task Force for identifying and developing new areas of tourism potential in the country during 1991-92 and for 1992-93 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The India Tourism Development Corporation is one of the pioneering agencies with the Central Government for the identification, promotion and development of new areas of tourism. The Tourism Task Force, which is a division of the ITDC has been set up with the primary objective of promoting camping tourism, adventure tourism and tourism to new destinations.

No specific quantum of funds have been allocated for the Task Force and money is provided as per the requirements of specific projects.

Irregularities in securities transactions

*389. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleas to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Bank of India was forced by interested

Directors on its Board hastily to pay Rs. 707 crores to the National Housing Bank NHB in the recent securities scam;

(b) if so, whether the State Bank of India is now contesting the claim of the NHB and has even decided to go to court in this matter;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ANZ Grindlays Bank has refused to pay in a similar situation; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) State Bank of India has reported that it has initiated action to file a claim on the assets of Shri Harshad S. Mehta under the provisions of Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Ordinance, 1992 for recovery of the amount.

(c) In compliance with the Reserve Bank of India directive, the ANZ Grindlays Bank has made a provision of Rs. 506 crores in their books, without prejudice to their legal rights and contentions. However the payment to NHB has not yet been made.

(d) This is a matter for Reserve Bank of India to take necessary action.

Modernisation of aviation facilities in Gujarat

*390. SHRI GOPALSINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of projects which are under operation in Gujarat for the modernisation of aviation facilities and airport during the last three years;

(b) whether the work on these projects is proceeding systematically; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The extension of runway to 9000' and construction of a separate terminal block at Ahamedabad airport in Gujarat has been completed during the last three years. The installation of speech switching system at this airport is in progress.

These works have been executed as per schedule during the last three years.

येल्हान्का कर्नाटक में डीजल विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना का निर्माण

*391. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :

क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि येलहान्का कर्नाटक संयुक्त क्षेत्र में 120 मेगावाट क्षमता की एक डीजल विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजना लगाए जाने का निर्णय लिया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रारम्भ में इस परियोजना की लागत कितनी आंकी गई थी, और इसे कब तक पूरा किया जाना था;

(ग) इससे पैदा होने वाली बिजली पर अनुमानत: कितनी लागत आनी थी :

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इस परियोजना के समय पर पूर्ण न होने के कारण इसकी लागत बढ़ गई है और इसके परिणामस्वरूप उत्पादन लागत में भी वृद्धि हो जाने की सम्भावना है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है, और

(च) क्या यह भी सच है कि लागत में वृद्धि हो जाने के कारण यह परियोजना अलाभकारी बन गई है ?

विद्युत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) कर्नाटक बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा येलहान्का में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में 120 मे०वा० (620 मे०वा०)